

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/761,043

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Brij B. Shrivastav

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated September 19, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-12, 14-18, 20-24 and 26-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/20/04, 1/3/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Applicant's amendment dated September 19, 2005 has been received and entered. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8, 13, 19 and 25. The pending claims in the application are 9-12, 14-18, 20-24, 26-33, which are in allowable condition.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 9-12, 14-17 and 21-24 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a system for medical imaging, wherein at least the third and the fourth coils configured in a diagonal arrangement, the diagonal arrangement of the third coil in a direction different than the diagonal arrangement of the fourth coil, and wherein the coils are arranged in one of a (i) superior-inferior direction, (ii) left-right direction and (iii) anterior-posterior direction, and configured for operation in at least one of conventional and sensitivity encoding (SENSE) imaging, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 18 and 26-29 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a system for medical imaging, wherein at least the third and the fourth coils configured in a diagonal arrangement, the diagonal arrangement of the third coil in a direction different than the diagonal arrangement of the fourth coil, and wherein the coils are arranged in one of a (i) superior-inferior direction, (ii) left-right direction and (iii) anterior-posterior direction, and wherein anterior saddle coils are configured wider than the anterior loop coils and posterior loop coils are configured wider than posterior saddle coil, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 20 and 30-33 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a system for medical imaging, wherein at least the third and the fourth coils configured in a diagonal arrangement, the diagonal arrangement of the third coil in a direction different than the diagonal arrangement of the fourth coil, and wherein the coils are arranged in one of a (i) superior-inferior direction, (ii) left-right direction and (iii) anterior-posterior direction, and wherein anterior saddle coils are configured wider than anterior loop coil and posterior loop coils are configured wider than posterior saddle coils and the anterior saddle coils overlap the posterior loop coils on left and right sides, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brij B. Shrivastav whose telephone number is 571-272-2250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.


Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 7, 2005



Brij B Shrivastav
Examiner
Art Unit 2859
